

“We Like to Live Among Healthy Streams”

(Supplemental Activity Complimenting Macroinvertebrate Activities)

Grades: 3-4

Focus: At the end of this lesson students will:

1. Learn the song “We Like to Live Among Healthy Streams”.
2. Understand the macroinvertebrate measurement of pollution of our streams.

Summary: Health of streams can be measured by the macroinvertebrate life found in the water. This song is a simple way of memorizing the diverse macroinvertebrate found in our waterways, which indicate different levels of pollution.

Exploration: *Discussion questions:*

1. What is pollution?
2. How does it effect our lives?
3. Where does the water come from?
4. How can you tell if the water is polluted? (Lead into the fact that the macroinvertebrate found can measure the level of contamination in that stream.)

Materials Needed: Song lyrics provided.

Activity: The teacher will pass out the lyrics to the song. The children, together with the teacher, will sing through the song to match the language to the melody.

Reinforcement could be achieved through any of the following:

1. Choose soloists for the verses.
2. Divide the group into boys and girls.
3. Have small groups choreograph each verse.
4. Vary the song with different dynamics and/or pitches.
5. Make up movement for the Chorus only.
6. Students develop their ideas for the song individually, or in groups.

Application: This song would complement units studying the macroinvertebrate. The tune will reinforce the names of the organisms and their importance as pollution indicators of our streams.

Assessment: Students will categorize some of the basic macroinvertebrate that appear in our waterways and what degree of contamination is present.

Science Content Standards: End of Grade 4

Standard 1: Benchmark 4
Standard 2: Benchmark 1, 4
Standard 3: Benchmark 1, 4, 5
Standard 5: Benchmark 1, 2, 3

Arts Content Standards: End of Grade 4

Standard 1: Benchmark 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Standard 2: Benchmark 1, 2, 3, 6
Standard 3: Benchmark 4
Standard 4: Benchmark 2, 4
Standard 6: Benchmark 2

*Lesson Plan designed by Aleta Forbes and Cindy Holst
as part of the 2006 Grant-Kohrs Teacher Workshop*

We Like to Live Among Healthy Streams

(tune to “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

CHORUS: *We like to live among healthy streams,
Healthy streams, healthy streams.
We like to live among healthy streams
And the bugs can tell us how.*

Vs. 1: The leech, worm and snail can survive a lot,
Survive a lot, survive a lot.
The leech, worm and snail can survive a lot
Of pollution in our streams. **CHORUS**

Vs. 2: Black Fly, sowbug and the midge,
And the midge, and the midge,
The black fly, sowbug and the midge
Will show us a cleaner stream. **CHORUS**

Vs. 3: Mayfly, caddisfly and the clam,
And the clam, and the clam.
Mayfly, caddisfly and the clam
Enjoy a better stream . **CHORUS**

Vs. 4: Snipefly, alderfly, stonefly, too.
They'll help you know it's true.
Snipefly, alderfly, stonefly, too
Show us the cleanest stream. **CHORUS**